

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Amorphous silica particles, wherein  
an oil absorption measured by JISK 6217-4 (a carbon black for rubber-basic  
characteristics) is more than 400ml/100g,  
the maximum value of  $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$  (where  $V_p$  is the pore volume [ $\text{mm}^3/\text{g}$ ] and  $R_p$  is  
the pore radius [ $\text{nm}$ ]) is  $250 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm}\cdot\text{g}$  or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the  
nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and  
pore peak radius when the  $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$  value is maximum is ~~3 nm or more~~ 15 to 100  
nm.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1,  
wherein  
the maximum value of  $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$  (where  $V_p$  is the pore volume [ $\text{mm}^3/\text{g}$ ] and  $R_p$  is  
the pore radius [ $\text{nm}$ ]) is  $500 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm}\cdot\text{g}$  or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the  
nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and  
the pore peak radius when the  $\Delta V_p/\Delta \log R_p$  value is maximum is ~~10 nm or more~~ 15 to  
100 nm.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 2, wherein

the maximum value of  $\Delta V_p / \Delta \log R_p$  (where  $V_p$  is the pore volume [ $\text{mm}^3/\text{g}$ ] and  $R_p$  is the pore radius [ $\text{nm}$ ]) is  $1000 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm} \cdot \text{g}$  or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and

the pore peak radius when the  $\Delta V_p / \Delta \log R_p$  value is maximum is 15 nm or more to 100 nm.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 3, wherein the average particle size is 0.5 to 40  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 4, wherein the bulk density is 20 to 200 g/l.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particles according to ~~any one of Claim 1 to 5~~, obtained by baking.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing amorphous silica, ~~wherein the process comprising baking silica particles having an oil absorption of at least 340ml/100g are baked at 200 – 990°C for 1 minute to 10 hours~~.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in Claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the time for baking is 10 minutes to 5 hours.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~Claims 8 to 9~~  
Claim 7, wherein the resulting amorphous silica exhibits an oil absorption of more than 400  
ml/100 g.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~  
Claim 7 to 10, further comprising the step of reacting at least one alkali metal silicate with at  
least one mineral acid.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~any of Claims~~  
Claim 7 to 11, further comprising the step of adjusting the pH value of the final silica to 3 to  
10 either before or after the drying of the silica slurry.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~Use~~ A method of using a silica, the method  
comprising  
mixing the amorphous silica particles as claimed in any of Claims Claim 1 to 6  
in a coating material as a matting agent, or  
in pharmaceuticals or agrochemicals as a carrier for pharmaceuticals or  
agrochemicals, or  
in a rubber as a reinforcing agent for various rubbers.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An adsorbent for pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals,  
comprising the amorphous silica particles ~~according to any one of Claims Claim 1 to 6.~~

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A matting agent, comprising the amorphous silica particles ~~according to any one of Claim 1 to 6.~~